

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2007 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 30-56 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 30, 32, 33, 38, 39, 41 and 45 have been amended. New claim 57 has been added. Accordingly, claims 30-57 are currently pending, with claims 30 and 57 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 32, 33, 38, 39 and 45 as containing limitations that lack sufficient antecedent basis. Claims 32, 33, 38, 39, 41 and 45 have been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for all claim limitations. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 30-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Regarding claim 30, the Examiner asserts that Applicant has not described how the the invention stays in position at the tilt angle. The Examiner is advised that the tripod head bearing the camera is manually tilted by the user. Because of the sinusoidal return moment on the tiltable assembly, the means for compensating the tilt moment in any tilting position provides a balanced system so that the tripod head remains at the desired tilt angle. Friction also tends to maintain the tiltable assembly at the desired tilt angle.

Further regarding claim 30, the Examiner asserts that it does not appear that the carrier assembly is attached on said tiltable assembly. Claim 30 has been amended and now recites at least one carrier connected to said tiltable assembly. This feature is illustrated by way of example in Fig. 6, where carrier pins 26 are connected to the rotational member 22 of tiltable assembly 5.

Regarding claims 30 and 41, the Examiner asserts that limitations stating that the pulling member starts from said carrier are indefinite and unclear. Applicant must disagree that this

language is indefinite. Fig. 6 illustrates an example where the cable 9 (pulling member) is connected to carrier pin 26 (carrier). Applicant submits that it is not necessary to describe in the claims at what point on the carrier the pulling member starts.

Regarding claims 38 and 42, the Examiner asserts that limitations to “one end” are unclear, because Applicant has not described to which end of the pulling member the one end is referring. Again, Applicant must respectfully disagree. These claims simply recite that one end of the pulling member (e.g. cable) is attached to a movable support means. For purposes of claims 38 and 42, either end of the pulling member can be connected to the movable support means.

Regarding claim 42, the Examiner asserts that Applicant has not described how or where the pulling member is connected to the movable support means and similarly Applicant has not described how or where the pulling member is connected to the carrier. Again, Applicant must respectfully disagree that claim 42 is unclear and indefinite. Applicant submits that it is not necessary to describe in the claims how or where the pulling member is connected to either the carrier or the movable support means. Claim 42 simply recites that the pulling member is connected to the carrier and to the movable support means.

To assist the Examiner in understanding the invention (see item 28 on page 6 of the Office Action), reference is made to Figs. 3, 6 and 9 of the application, which illustrate an embodiment of the invention. Cables 9 are coupled between carrier pins 26 and movable support member 16. As tiltable assembly 5 is tilted, carrier pins 26 rotate about axis N, causing cables 9 to pull movable support member 16 along axis N (downwardly in Fig. 6) and to compress springs 17. The compressed springs 17, via cables 9, exert a sinusoidal return moment on the tiltable assembly 5.

Based upon the above discussion, it is submitted that claims 30-56 are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 30-32, 34-42, 48-50, 52-54 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by O'Connor (US 4,083,524). Claims 33 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over O'Connor. Claims 43-47 and 55 are indicated to be allowable

if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amended claims.

O'Connor discloses a panhead for mounting, panning and tilting instruments such as cameras (abstract). In O'Connor, one may regard the crank arm 52 as a carrier connected to the tiltable assembly at a position some distance from the tilt axis 214 (Fig. 8). The crank arm 52 is movable with the tiltable assembly around the tilt axis 214. Connected with the crank arm is an upper yoke 56 which, in tilting the tiltable assembly and, hence, moving the crank arm 52 about the tilt axis 214, is rotated and the distance between the upper yoke 56 and the lower yoke 66 is reduced, thereby compressing the springs 62 and 64. Because of the rotation of the upper yoke 56 in Fig. 8 of O'Connor, the left spring 62 is compressed, whereas the right spring 64 expands. The knob 42 may be used to adjust the force exerted by springs 62 and 64, i.e. by manually changing the distance between lower yoke 66 and upper yoke 56. The upper yoke 56 connected to crank arm 52 and abutting on the upper ends of springs 62 and 64 may be considered as a member that interacts with the crank arm 52 and the energy-storing member (springs).

However, the upper yoke 56 of O'Connor is not a pulling member, as required by amended claim 30. In addition, even if the upper yoke was a pulling member, O'Connor contains no disclosure that the upper yoke runs toward a deflection point, and after deflection runs essentially parallel to the tilt axis, as required by amended claim 30. In summary, O'Connor does not disclose or suggest "at least one pulling member that interacts with said carrier and said energy-storing member" and does not disclose or suggest "said pulling member, starting from said carrier, running essentially perpendicular to said tilt axis toward a deflection point, and after the deflection, said pulling member running essentially parallel to said tilt axis", as required by amended claim 30. For at least these reasons, amended claim 30 is clearly and patentably distinguished over O'Connor, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-56 depend from claim 30 and are patentable over O'Connor for at least the same reasons as claim 30.

New claim 57 is directed to a tripod head and contains limitations that parallel the limitations of amended claim 30. Claim 57 is patentable over O'Connor for at least the same reasons as claim 30.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 30-57 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

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